

A-Z OF TILING

Every week as part of our “Stay Positive, Back Stronger” campaign we will be providing you with our A-Z of Tiling Terms. Get in-depth description of many of the common tiling terms, plus some expert insight or top tips from our team.

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QUALIFICATIONS

Formal tiling qualifications are desirable for fixers for two reasons. For those working in the construction industry, even if only occasionally, there is no choice: by 2010, only a fixer holding a CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) card will be allowed to work on a construction site. This is granted to a fixer who passes a health and safety test and achieves the NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) Level 2 for Wall and Floor Tiling. NVQ Level 2 includes preparing backgrounds for both tile walls and floors, laying sand-and-cement screeds and fixing both ceramic and natural stone tiles. See also CSCS card and NVQ.

BAL INSIGHT

This is important to you, to recognise to your customers and also will enable you to work on construction site (CSCS). The Tile Association (TTA) have funding available up to the end of the year. If you are an experienced fixer? you can undertake a one-day practical assessment route (EWPAR) Level 2 Wall & Floor Tiling qualification.

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QUARRY TILES

Extruded tile, typically of 13 mm to 19 mm thickness and 150 mm or more square, manufactured from shale or natural clays. Usually unglazed, although glazed types are not unknown, and generally available in terracotta, brown and black. Unglazed quarry tiles can be slightly porous. Quarry tiles are typically specified for floors requiring a highly durable surface and are normally fixed with 5 mm joints or wider, requiring the use of wide joint grout. They are rarely used on walls but may occasionally be seen on countertops.

BAL INSIGHT

Ideal to be used external or heavy trafficked areas, when cutting always use a wet cutter due to the thickness of the tile. Also, the use of a protective sealer may be used when grouting with darker coloured grouts.

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QUARTZITE

A hard metamorphic rock, formed from sandstone subjected to heat and pressure.

BAL INSIGHT

Quartzite is a natural stone whereas quartz is a manufactured stone (See quartz tiles).

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QUARTZ TILES

Tiles described as “quartz tiles” are not natural, but engineered or agglomerate stone. They are manufactured using quartz sand, resin and mirror flecks. The mixture is heated to an extremely high temperature to create the finished articles. Quartz tiles are resistant to heat, and scratching.

BAL INSIGHT

Quartz tiles are a type of resin agglomerated tile., Always check the suitability for the intended application with the manufacture or supplier. (See also Resin Agglomerated Stiles